

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Baltimore-

Contacts:

Annet Couwenberg,

Rotterdam Sister City Committee
410-225-2218 / acouwenb@mica.edu

Cheryl Knauer, MICA
410-225-2300 / pr@mica.edu

Elizabeth Weiblen, Mayor's Office of
International Affairs
410-396-3190 /
elizabeth.weiblen@baltimorecity.gov

**BALTIMORE-ROTTERDAM SISTER CITY COMMITTEE DISPLAYS
POSTCARDS CREATED BY CHILDREN IN BOTH BALTIMORE AND
ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS**

Reflection Runs Tuesday, April 25 – Thursday, May 25 at the Baltimore Visitor Center
in Conjunction with the Volvo Ocean Race and the Baltimore Waterfront Festival

Organized by the Baltimore-Rotterdam Sister City Committee in Collaboration with MICA and the
Baltimore City Mayor's Office

BALTIMORE – The inaugural art and culture exchange between the City of Baltimore and Rotterdam, Netherlands, culminates with *Reflection*, an exhibition of postcards created by children in both cities. Organized by the Baltimore-Rotterdam Sister City Committee, in collaboration with Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) and the Baltimore City Mayor's Office, the exhibition takes place **Tuesday, April 25 – Thursday, May 25** at the **Baltimore Visitor Center** located at the Inner Harbor (401 Light Street). Hours are 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily.

Reflection is held in conjunction with the Volvo Ocean Race in Baltimore and the Baltimore Waterfront Festival, which takes place Thursday, April 27 – Sunday, April 30. Baltimore and Rotterdam both serve as stopovers for the race.

In March 2006, students from Roland Park Elementary and Middle School and Patapsco High School and Center for the Arts in Baltimore and Thorbecke Voortgezet Onderwijs, Wolfert van Borselen, and Het Landje in Rotterdam participate in workshops at the schools creating postcards that depict the students' impressions of life in their own city. Students collage, paint, and/or draw on the postcards, as well as write descriptions and/or thoughts about the project in their native languages, which might include English, Dutch, Spanish, Turkish, and Arabic.

-more-

Reflection, page two

The workshops in Baltimore are led by teachers at the participating public schools and students in MICA's master of arts in teaching (MAT) and Community Arts Partnerships (CAP) programs.

All of the postcards created will be displayed in *Reflection*, as well as a documentary film about the workshops in Baltimore created by local filmmaker Cheryl Fair.

Additionally, during the Volvo Ocean Race and Baltimore Waterfront Festival, select students from Rotterdam visit Baltimore to view the exhibition and interact with their counterparts.

Annet Couwenberg, chair of the Baltimore-Rotterdam Sister City Committee, said, "The Committee is looking forward to the *Reflection* project. With short-term and long-term objectives of integrating art into the public school curriculum in Rotterdam and Baltimore, we hope to encourage kids to use art as a way to reflect and actively engage in a greater understanding between the two cities and different cultures. The committee hopes that this appreciation of each others societies will help build cultural bridges between these two unique, but complimentary cities."

Founded in 1985, the Baltimore-Rotterdam Sister City Committee is under the aegis of Mayor Martin O'Malley and the Mayor's Office of International Affairs. The committee's mission is to sustain and advance an ongoing relationship between Baltimore and Rotterdam contributing to increased cooperation, mutual understanding, and friendship between the citizens of both cities. The committee hopes to increase global cooperation at the municipal level, promote cultural understanding, and stimulate economic development.

For more information about *Reflection* and the Baltimore-Rotterdam Sister City Committee, call 410-396-3190 or visit www.baltimorecity.gov/sistercities.

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Editor's Note: The media are invited to a private reception for *Reflection* on Sunday, April 30 from 5 – 7 p.m. at the team ABN AMRO Pavilion located at Maryland Science Center (601 Light Street). For more information and to RSVP, contact Cheryl Knauer, MICA's media relations manager, at 410-225-2300 or cknauer@mica.edu.

Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), founded in 1826, is consistently ranked among the very top tier of visual arts colleges in the nation and enrolls approximately 1,500 undergraduate students and 200 graduate students from 45 states and 59 foreign countries. MICA offers programs of study leading to the BFA, MA, and MFA degrees, as well as post-baccalaureate certificate programs and a full slate of credit and noncredit courses for adults, college-bound students, and children. MICA is also recognized as an important cultural resource for the Baltimore/Washington region, sponsoring many public and community-outreach programs, including more than 100 exhibitions by students, faculty, and nationally and internationally known artists annually, as well artists' residencies, film series, lectures, readings, and performances. For more information, visit www.mica.edu.